

(b) if so, the details of broad features of the index-linked bonds;

(c) the quantum of money which the Government propose to borrow through these bonds; and

(d) the time by which these bonds are likely to be floated?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). No decision has been taken in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Funds for the Infrastructure Projects

5682. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Work Bank through its subsidiary the International Development Agency has offered a \$ 250 million low interest (0.5%) 30 years loan to fund relief and rehabilitation (R&R) expenditure connected with large infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tasar Silk

5683. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand of Indian Tasar silk has increased in the foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expand the areas of production of Tasar silk; and

(d) the amount spent for development of this sector during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The programmes for increasing tasar silk production are primarily formulated and implemented by the concerned State Sericulture Departments. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the States, the Central Silk Board has set up a network of units to extend necessary R&D. Extension Training & Infrastructural support for the development of tasar sector. Besides, CSB is also organising preparation/supply of tasar silkworm seed and demonstration of improved techniques of tasar cocoon cooking, reeling & spinning. Further, in order to support tasar cocoon growers financial support has been provided to marketing organisations to strengthen the existing marketing system.

(d) The expenditure incurred by the CSB for development of tasar silk industry during last 3 years is as under :

	(Rs. in crores)
1993-94	3.34
1994-95	3.40
1995-96	4.05

[English]

Import of Newsprint

5684. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of newsprint imported during 1994 and 1995 and proposed to be imported during 1996;

(b) whether domestic supply of newsprint is not sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the estimated gap between demand and supply of newsprint in the country at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The import of newsprint during the last three years has been as under :

Period	Quantity (Lakh MT)
1993-94	3.11
1994-95	2.92
1995-96	3.45

During the current year, upto 30.6.96, a quantity of 0.91 lakh MTs of newsprint has been imported.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The demand of newsprint and its production in the country during the last three years has been as under :

Period	Demand	Production (in lakhs MT)
1993-94	5.80	3.61
1994-95	6.00	4.02
1995-96	6.30	4.10

(d) Government have taken the various steps to increase the indigenous production of newsprint. These include.

(i) A capacity of 6.55 lakhs tonnes by way of Industrial Licences/Letters of intent has been sanctioned.

(ii) Under the new Industrial Policy, newsprint units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory industrial licensing subject to locational policy.

(iii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished.

(iv) Newsprint is exempted from excise duty.

(v) Such paper mills which are producing paper conforming to BIS standards for newsprint subject to their products being used by newspapers and its quality being found satisfactory, are being considered by Government for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 as mills manufacturing newsprint.

- (vi) All types of newsprint including glazed newsprint has been made freely importable with effect from 1.5.95 at nil customs duty.

Projects Under VCF

5685. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- whether sanctioning of the Venture Capital Funds Projects require any security from the promoters;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the assets created under the Venture Capital Fund Projects is hypothecated;
- the maximum amount disbursed to any single project so far under Venture Capital Funds; and
- the number of companies under VCF scheme having industrial licences issued by Ministry of Industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has reported that assistance under the Venture Capital Fund (VCF) scheme is given by way of equity and/or conditional loan. The conditional loan is secured by a first mortgage and charge on all immovable and movable assets (present and future) of the company. Further, irrevocable and unconditional personal guarantee is taken from the promoters.

(c) SIDBI has reported that hypothecation charge has been created in all cases, where disbursements have been made by way of conditional loan under VCF scheme.

(d) The maximum amount disbursed to a single project under VCF scheme of SIDBI is Rs. 93.75 lakhs.

(e) SIDBI has reported that no unit assisted under VCF scheme of SIDBI has obtained industrial licence. However, units assisted by SIDBI under the scheme have obtained small scale industries (SSI) registration from the District Industries Centre.

Tyre Production Units

5686. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- the details of tyre producing units set up in public/private sector as on date;
- whether any of the above unit is having foreign investment;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the details of complaints received regarding quality of tyres during the last three years; and
- the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). There are 29 tyre companies having 36 tyre factories in the public/private sectors as on date.

Out of these 29 companies, 4 companies have foreign investment of their foreign collaborators. These are : M/s. Ceat Tyres of India Limited with M/s. Yokohama Rubber Co. Ltd., Japan; M/s. Dunlop Indias Ltd. with M/s. Sumitomo Rubber Industries Ltd., Japan; M/s. Goodyear India Ltd. with M/s. Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company, USA; and M/s. Modi Rubber Limited with M/s. Continental A.G. Germany.

(d) and (e). Large tyre companies follow a warranty scheme, whereby a consumer is given pro-rate adjustments in manufacturing defect in tyres. However, if a complaint is brought to the notice of the Government regarding quality of tyres, the matter is taken up both with the manufacturer concerned as also with the Industry Association for immediate attention.

[Translation]

Janata Cloth

5687. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of yarn supplied to handloom weavers in Madhya Pradesh by the National Handloom Development Corporation under Mill Gate Price Scheme during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for manufacturing Janata Cloth during the year 1995-1996 in Madhya Pradesh under Janata Cloth Scheme and to what extent this target has been achieved;

(c) the target fixed for production of such cloth in the State during 1996-97; and

(d) the profit earned by the Government since the introduction of Janata Cloth Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) The quantity of yarn supplied to handloom weavers in Madhya Pradesh by National Handloom Development Corporation under Mill Gate Price Scheme during last three years is as follows :

Year	Quantity (in lakh Kg.)
1993-94	2.57
1994-95	1.03
1995-96	1.52

(b) During 1995-96, Government of Madhya Pradesh had been allocated a target of 10.00 million square metres under Janata Cloth Scheme. The achievement as reported is about 6.30 million square mtrs.

(c) The Target fixed for 1996-97 in favour of Government of Madhya Pradesh is 3.75 million square metres.

(d) Government of India does not earn profit by implementing the schemes rather reimbursement the subsidy in favour of beneficiary agencies.